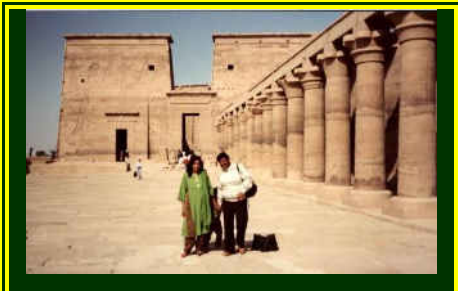


# PICTORIAL TRAVELOGUES

By

Mqsood Ahmad Khan



# DEDICATION

## TO MY PARENTS

I dedicate the my pictorial travelogues to my parents who, used to narrate the stories about places, events and their personal accounts of travelling which used to fascinate me and create an urge to travel and see new places; a desire which, almost fulfilled. My father was in the Indian Army during the II War; and had the opportunity to visit many locations in India. He, also, used to talk about those places and his personal experiences with lot of interest which, used to thrill me and create a desire to travel around and see new places.



My Father



My Mother at My Wedding Day

They are the biggest inspiration for me to enjoy traveling and see places of interest. I proudly, dedicate all my travelling to my parents.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My wife, Farzana Maqsood is also fond of travelling and seeing new places. She has the capacity and courage to travel alone, even in odd circumstances. Once she had to travel from Pakistan to – Sudan. She travelled alone just one day before the start of Gulf War. They had to detour a lot. She reached safely at Khartoum after touching a number of airports on her way.

She is a boosting factor in this pursuit, as she has the desire; energy and capacity to bear the hardships of the travelling happily.

Similar support is given by our children, who are always ready to travel with us with the same spirit.



Holland

## **INTRODUCTION**

I, Maqsood Ahmad Khan, belong to Lahore, Pakistan. I joined the Civil Services of Pakistan on 30<sup>th</sup> December 1974, after doing MA in Economics from the Government College, Lahore, Pakistan. I was allocated to the Railway, Transportation Group. During the service and afterwards, I got the opportunities of travelling which, I availed fully. A major part of the country, I had seen during studentship and railway service.

I am starting my pictorial travelogue about the journeys out of my homeland.

Travelling account of journeys in the country, I will attempt separately.

My first journey, out of the country, was to the Philippines in 1984. On the following pages I will write about my experiences in Philippines in brief with a lot of pictures.





## PICTORIAL TRAVELOGUES

PHILIPPINES  
1984

Mqsood Ahmad Khan



## **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

I acknowledge the role of Pakistan Railways and my senior offices who nominated me for this Training Course.

Asian Development Bank who sponsored this course; and the Development Academy of Philippines and its Faculty and Officials who facilitated us to complete this course successfully and comfortably.

## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate my travelling and this work to my wife and children who made me comfortable to attend this course with peace of mind: and managed the affairs back at home very amiably.

## **PHILIPPINES**

**1984**

I was posted at Rawalpindi Division as Divisional Transportation Officer, when a general training facility in the Philippines and Japan, sponsored by Asian Development Bank, Asian Productivity Organization and JICA was circulated through the Ministry of Industries. I along with another colleague were nominated by the then General Manager for this training. After completing the necessary formalities we flew to Manila on 6<sup>th</sup> January 1984 from Karachi via Bangkok.

### **JOURNEY**

These were the most exciting moments of my life. It was my first journey out of the country, to the place I always dreamt of. After the plane had flown, after sometime, the pilot announced that we were flying over Ahmedabad (India). This thrilled me, imagining that I was flying over a foreign land out of my place. It was night time. I continued looking down through the windows throughout the journey, guessing about the well-lit places, we were flying over.

### **STOPOVER AT BANGKOK**

We reached Bangkok where we stopped; and to our surprise the plane was got, fully packed; and we were asked to occupy our proper reserved seats. However, an alarming situation arose when the crew found that one reserved passenger from Bangkok could not be accommodated for



want of a seat. So, one passenger was noticed extra but who? The local crew, as well as, the flight crew was counting and recounting the heads to find any unauthorized passenger but none. Finally the things were resolved when the cabin crew identified a passenger, next to us, a member of the host airline traveling from Karachi to Manila, with proper authority but without reservation, which, could not be noticed earlier due to sparingly occupation of the plane from Karachi to Bangkok. He, with some verbally reprimand, was allowed to travel on the jump seat onward which was luckily available.

Again an exciting journey from Bangkok to Manila started. It was night time when we started from Karachi. Gradually, after some time the horizon started getting brighter and brighter as were traveling facing the East. I could see a rising sun and rays through the thick clouds till these became almost golden. The brighter it was, the places below started getting clearer and clearer.

## **MANILA**

It was the next day that just before noon, announcement was made that we were approaching Manila. The Flight started getting lower and lower, till, I could see the tops of the trees and houses. For me it was an exciting moment that this Manila we were landing. It was a comfortable landing. We were cleared through the immigration and other formalities very quickly, as a large number of counters to deal with the passengers were available for this purpose.



Out of the airport; and were surrounded by a large number of cab drivers. As briefed in the papers sent by the Sponsors, we hired a cab and started our journey towards our destination - the Holiday Inn at the main Boulevard. The journey was quite comfortable. I just kept looking out and was thrilled with the idea that I was in Manila: too much heard of the place.

### HOTEL

At Manila, we were accommodated in the Holliday Inn Hotel at, Roxas Blvd, Pasay City Metro Manila, where we were stayed for the next three

to four days. The hotel was comfortable with all the facilities with a large number of restaurants around in the lobby; with a dance room as well.

The, activates at Manila included a cultural night show organized by the hosts (Development Academy of the Philippines, Manila Campus) – good one; a formal dinner in the Hotel, visits to few offices and the Manila Open University.

## **MANILA**



**Manila - A View from the Hotel**



**Manila - A View from the Hotel Room**





**The Sale Girl at a Shop**



**The Private Security Guard at the shop**



**A view of the shop**



**Manila – A Street View**





**Manila Open University**

### **PAKISTANI FRIENDS**

We had the contacts of some Pakistani friends whom we contacted. They were very nice and hospitable. They showed us around the city and we could dine out and have a glimpse of the night life as well. Throughout our stay in the Philippines they were quite helpful for us in every matter, we needed them.

**DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY OF PHILIPPINES**  
**TAGAYTAY**



The Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) was the place, where we had to attend our course. We all were taken there in a beautiful and comfortable micro bus with a Guide who was continuously. The Academy was located in beautiful surrounding and quite a large campus with accommodating facilities.

**THE ACADEMY**  
**CITY OF TAGAYTAY**

The City of Tagaytay is the Philippines's most popular tourist destinations because of its outstanding scenery and cooler climate provided by its high altitude. Tagaytay overlooks [Taal Lake](#) and provides one of the iconic views of the Philippines. Tagaytay is about 55 km from [Manila](#), providing an easy escape for the locals from the heat of the big city.

No doubt we found the town as ascribed above. We were accommodated in very comfortable rooms. The Academy was spread over a vast area and had all the facilities. As there were no other classes, therefore, we found ourselves in comparatively spacious environment. Almost, whole of the staff was at our disposal. Dining Hall, Kitchen and the Recreation Hall were the main focus. The food problem



for the Muslim - Halal Food was resolved amicably. The Muslims are in a quite large number in the Philippines.

Accordingly, the Course started, permanent facility, guest speakers even some ladies, who in the evening with us were in the Recreation Hall, participating in every activity with us, so not any boring environment and things were getting quite absorbing, We had even , evening session, some time, till late at night,

## **TRAINING**

### **COURSE**

The Project Feasibility, Appraisal and Implementation	Development Academy of Philippines (DAP), The Philippines  Japan Productivity Centre (JPC), Tokyo, Japan	January 1984 to February 1984	Organized by Asian Productivity Organization (APO)
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This course was sponsored by the Asian Development Bank and Asian Productivity Organization, Tokyo, Japan.

The course started with vigor and energy and was completed successfully by everyone without any serious incident of any sort.

### **MODALITY OF TRAINING**

- Classroom Lectures
- Classroom Exercise/ Even late at night
- Visits
- Discussion were quite free

## **THE PARTICIPANTS**

This course was Asia, Asia Pacific specific; and was well represented by the countries of the area. In our course the participants represented Bangladesh, Bhutan, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand and Tonga. It was a matter of happiness for all of us that an immediate cohesion was built amongst the participants which remained up to the last moment – rather emotional moments were seen while departing – Very, very friendly atmosphere.

## **LANGUAGES**

The Philippines is made up of over 7000 islands with 120 and 175 languages including 2 national and 12 auxiliary languages. Along with Tagalog, English is widely spoken and understood. English was the commonly spoken language amongst the participants; and the medium of instructions as well.

## **PICTORIAL - ACADEMY**

**1984**



**Façade of the Academy**



**The Campus Building**





**Campus Court**





**With Participants**



**At Work – Late at Night**





**Roof Top of the Academy**



**Roof Top of the Academy**

## **SOCIAL ACTIVITIES**

There was a Recreation hall in the academy with lot of sport facilities but our focus was on the Billiard Table. Every day in the evening, almost all the participants were surrounding the Billiard Table - and then matches – lot of hue and cry – It was very absorbing and the time used to pass nicely.

At occasions, the Administration and the Faculty organized functions which we attended with lot of interest.







**LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT - MANILA**



In the present scenario the Manila Light Rail Transit System, popularly known as the LRT, is a metropolitan rail system serving [Manila](#), the [Philippines](#). The system is operated by the [Light Rail Transit Authority](#) (LRTA), a government-owned and controlled corporation under the authority of the [Department of Transportation and Communications](#)

The Academy organized a trip to visit LRT. When we visited the Project Site, the work was going on with lot of enthusiasm. It was very useful trip. First time I was witnessing the construction of a Metro Railway over the very congested roads, with an objective to ease the traffic issues of the city.

### **LRT PROJECT IN PICTURES**

























## **TAAL LAKE**

Taal Lake is a freshwater lake in the [province](#) of [Batangas](#), on the island of [Luzon](#) in the Philippines. Tagaytay is famous for Taal Volcano. The entire Tagaytay ridge is the crater's edge and the lake is the caldera of the volcano. During our stay at Tagaytay, I visited this lake once or twice.



## **PAGSANJAN FALLS**

During our stay at the DAP, a tour was arranged by the Academy to visit the Pagsanjan Falls, which are the major tourist attractions in the Province of Laguna, which, when we arrived there was proven right. On our arrival there, we were accommodated in a beautiful resort, wherefrom, after having some snacks, we started the journey, in the Shooting the Rapids, long and narrow a wooden canoes, pushed by two or three boatmen to the upstream.

The way to the falls was through a narrow gorge lined with the huge boulders, rocks and small waterfalls. On our way we saw people selling coconut water, here and there. We stopped at a place and enjoyed the fresh coconut juicy water; very freshening. Rowing by the boatmen was an experience to watch; pushing, lifting, in the rocky stream, really an art in itself.

Finally we reached the fall; an exciting and thrilling scene, which is stuck up in my mind like a picture. There was a raft in the pool in front of the falls for the visitors to take them to a cave behind the falls. I also rode in that raft. While heading towards the fall, I could not resist and jumped in the lake, an action which was considered by my friends quite dangerous and foolish; and they were not wrong. However, I enjoyed a lot and cannot forget this adventure. I took some photographs which, I lost over the period; however, I am pasting a few taken from the internet which are quite recent (2016), with credit who first uploaded.

### **PAGSANJAN FALLS**



**Pagsanjan Falls**











**RAFT**

**PEOPLE OF PHILIPPINES**



The people of Philippines are very nice, hospitable and kind. We found them always helpful with a smiling face. By and large we enjoyed the hospitality of our Filipino hosts.

## **JEEPNEY**

Jeepney is a common sight Philippines. These are the most popular means of [public transport](#) in the [Philippines](#) which most of the time are fully crowded and well decorated.



**A Jeepney**

### **ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK - MANILA**

We also visited the office of ADB at Manila, where, I was chosen as spokesperson. I made a speech about our experiences in Philippines and what we learnt from our training there. The Session ended with thanks to all with whom we interacted in connection with our training

### **DEPARTURE FOR JAPAN**

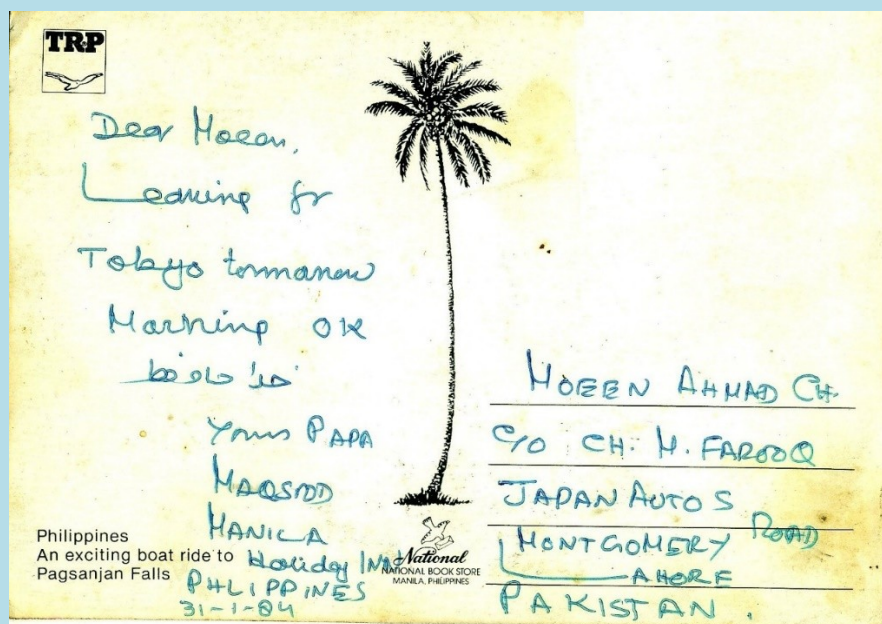
Finally, completing our stay in the Philippines, we left for Japan on 1<sup>st</sup> February 1984.

By and large our stay in the Philippines was wonderful and we enjoyed and learnt, academically, a lot about the Project Feasibility, Appraisal and Implementation, through very learned and experienced academicians; and the very hospitable people of the host country.

Throughout our stay the group dynamics remained wonderful.

## VIEW CARDS

The view cards posted by me from Philippines to my family.



# Paálam Philippines





I, Maqsood Ahmad Khan, after having the Master Degree in Economic from the Government College, Lahore (Punjab University) in 1972, qualified the Competitive Examination for Civil Services of Pakistan 1974 and joined Traffic (Transportation & Commercial Group) of Pakistan Railways. I rose to the level of General Manager (Welfare & Training); and completed my services on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2010, after attaining superannuation.

During the service, I could visit many a countries, viz Belgium, Canada, Egypt, England, France, Holland, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Switzerland, UAE, USA, West Germany in connection with foreign assignments, training, meetings, visits and studies; alone or with the members of my family.

To make these journeys memorable, the use of the camera was a tool with me. The collection of the photographs thus taken, when seen at the later years, gave an account of travels round the world, which I am sharing with others as information; memoir or self-actualization. Hope, the readers would enjoy my Pictorial Travelogue.

For any feedback or comments please contact at

[matmfkz@gmail.com](mailto:matmfkz@gmail.com)

PS:

The photographs of the friends, colleagues and others have been uploaded in good faith, as memoir.

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